

VOLUNTEER NEWS



APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH!

All this month we CELEBRATE our wonderful Volunteers and all YOU do to help make our Parks, Greenways, Nature Preserves and recreation programs the BEST in the land!

Volunteers may serve as Youth Sports coaches or assistants...Help with a landscaping or clean-up project in a Park...Tutor or mentor students in an after-school program...Chaperone a dance...Coach or support youth and teens in Adapted Sports...Serve on an Advisory Council...Lend a hand at one of our three Senior Centers...Help during a Holiday event...Care for the environment as Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners or Nature Center volunteers...Come out with their school class to Volunteer and learn life skills...Plant flowers in their neighborhood Park...Or use their time and skills to help in countless other ways!

THANK YOU to all of our AWESOME VOLUNTEERS!



Volunteer Highlights – March



**The thought is the same in any language:
THANK YOU for Volunteering with Park & Recreation!**

Here are some of the MANY ways that Volunteers helped make programs, events and Park projects AWESOME in March:



- Volunteers served dinner at the FIRST “Senior Social” at North Mecklenburg Senior Center
- Community members cleaned up and removed invasive plants at McDowell and Stephens Road Nature Preserves
- Girl Scouts from Daisy Troop 3037 and their “sister” Junior Scout Troop created wildflower “seed bombs,” and spread the seeds to beautify Wingate Neighborhood Park and provide food for pollinators
- Corporate and school/university groups got a good start on Spring clean-ups, including: Community School of Davidson at Jetton Park; University of Northern Iowa at Park Road Park; Veterans Bridge Home at Veterans Park; CEM at the Sportsplex; WeLoveU Foundation at McAlpine Creek Park/Greenway; and more
- The first Saturday projects – open to the public – were completed at Nevin Park, Dunlavin Community Garden, Iswa Nature Preserve and Colonel Francis Beatty Park
- Approximately 125 Volunteer coaches are leading youth baseball, track & field and indoor soccer during the Spring season
- Volunteers assist with Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation dances, social events, adaptive sports and other programs





EARTH DAY COMMUNITY SERVICE at Berewick!

LOCATION: Berewick Recreation Center

- 5910 Dixie River Road, Charlotte, 28278

DATE/TIME OF EVENT: **Saturday, April 13, 10:00AM – 2:00PM**

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: **20 and more!**

Everyone is welcome to join us as we come together to build a wildlife habitat area and beautify a section of the outside area of Berewick Recreation Center! Groups from companies and organizations are welcome to come! Volunteers will assist with: mulching, planting, picking up trash, digging holes to plant trees, and various other projects involving garden beds and outside areas. Please dress for the weather and bring work gloves – this is a rain or shine event! Be prepared to get dirty... Water and snacks will be provided.

Volunteers must be at least 12 years old – ANY volunteer under the age of 16 MUST be accompanied by a parent/adult at all times!

Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov or BerewickRecreationCenter@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov



UNDERWATER EGG HUNT

LOCATION: RAY'S SPLASH PLANET

- 215 N. Sycamore Street, Charlotte, 28202

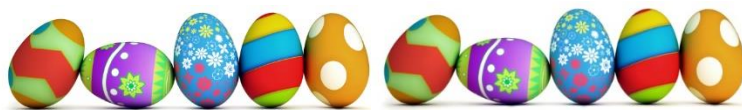
DATE/TIME OF EVENT: **THURSDAY, April 18 – 5:30pm-9:00pm**



Join us for an Underwater Egg Hunt! Hunts will be offered for ages 0-10 years old. Event entry includes swimming, prizes, and GALLONS of FUN!

Volunteers will assist with organizing registration, answering questions, getting participants lined up in queues, handing out prizes, and general event clean-up. You must be at least 16 years old to Volunteer for this event. *Please wear comfortable clothing – Volunteers are not required to swim!*

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov or Diana.Weber@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov to sign up TODAY!



Bette Rae Thomas Community

LOCATION: BETTE RAE THOMAS RECREATION CENTER

- 2921 Tuckaseegee Road, Charlotte, 28208

DATE/TIME OF EVENT: **Saturday, April 27 – 10:00am-3:00pm**
(Rain Date: May 4)



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help out with the FUN at this Block Party for the Enderly Park area – GAMES! MUSIC! FOOD! Volunteers will assist with set-up and tear-down; supervising activity stations; giving directions to attendees. Please wear comfortable clothing to be outside; closed-toe shoes are required. **Please contact** VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to sign up!



Open Streets 704 is a series of Charlotte events that literally opens a length of city streets for an afternoon just for people! Taking cues from similar events around the country and the world, Open Streets 704 aims to build a better, healthier, connected community by encouraging Charlotte and Mecklenburg area residents to walk, bicycle, and experience the city together in a way that's just not possible in a car.

**The next Open Streets 704 event is coming up on
SUNDAY, APRIL 28 – 1:00pm-5:00pm!**

It takes a small army of passionate volunteers to put on Open Streets 704 programs!

Here are the ways YOU can help out:

- **Set Up Team:**

As a Set-Up volunteer you will assist the leadership team in preparing the streets to be open. Duties may include, chalk painting, sign hanging, tent set-up, and delivery of items to hubs. You should be able to lift 50 lbs. and walk long distances. **SHIFT: 11:00AM-1:00PM**

- **Intersection Superheroes:**

As an Intersection Superhero you will be helping keep the route car(e) free for the duration of the event. You will be assisting CMPD officers in keeping cars off the route and providing helpful detour options to motorists once the streets are opened to people-powered traffic. You will also serve as ambassadors welcoming people onto the route.

***MUST be at least 18 years old! SHIFTS: 12:30-3:00PM, 2:30-5:00PM**

- **Activity Hub Ambassadors:**

As an Activity Hub Ambassador your primary job is to welcome people to your Activity Zone and answer questions about the Open Streets 704 program. You will also be assisting Park & Rec staff and the Open Streets 704 Zone Captain in your area. Duties may include assisting with **bicycle rentals/valet**, giving out water, greeting participants, answering questions about the route/event, distributing supplies, etc. **SHIFTS: 12:30-3:00PM, 2:30-5:00PM**

- **Evaluation Team:**

As an Evaluation volunteer, you play a critical role in collecting information about Open Streets 704 participants. We use this data to refine our route, improve engagement, and ensure all attendees have a great day! This is an interactive role – your main duty will be asking participants to fill out a short survey. When you are not collecting surveys, you will be doing observation counts. The observation counts help us determine attendance at Open Streets 704. **SHIFTS: 12:30-3:00PM, 2:30-5:00PM**

***YOU MUST ATTEND A VOLUNTEER TRAINING BEFORE THE APRIL 28 EVENT!!**

PLEASE VISIT <http://openstreets704.com/get-involved/volunteer-roles/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER AS A VOLUNTEER FOR

[OPEN STREETS 704!](#)



Rodney's Great Kids Triathlon

LOCATION: MECKLENBURG COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER

- 800 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, 28202

DATE OF EVENT: Saturday May 4

TIME OF EVENT: 7:00am-11:30am

Rodney's Great Kids Triathlon is a competition for kids in various age groups - there are divisions for boys and girls from age 4 to 17. Kids start out swimming; jump out of the pool, put on shoes and bike helmets, jump on bicycles; ride the required distance; then jump off and run to the finish line. The distance of each leg of competition varies by each age group. The older the kids, the farther they must go in each leg of the race! **There are various volunteer stations - Volunteers may assist with:**

Bike Station: Helping kids transition from swimming to biking, then to running.

Course /Water Station: Passing water cups to children as they continue to bike/run the course. Also cheer on kids and give encouragement to keep going.

Cheerleader: Cheer on kids throughout the course to keep them motivated and encouraged. ***This makes the event FUN for kids!***

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old; Volunteers will receive a T-shirt to wear throughout the event.

Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov or Kimberly.Herrera@MeckNC.gov to sign up for this FUN event!

BASKETBALL CAMP!

LOCATION: BETTE RAE THOMAS RECREATION CENTER

- 2921 Tuckaseegee Road, Charlotte, 28208

DATES/TIMES OF EVENT: Monday-Friday, JUNE 10-14 – 8:00am-6:00pm daily

Novice and advanced players are welcome to participate during the week with basketball skills & drills, contests and team competitions each day.

Volunteers will assist with set-up and take-down of equipment; supervising drills, contests and games; supervising lunch and other break times; other assistance as needed.

Volunteers must have a current application and background check!

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to receive the link to apply.



Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation Services

MONTHLY DANCE!

LOCATION: MARION DIEHL RECREATION CENTER

- 2219 Tyvola Road, 28210

(Alternate location: Tyvola Senior Center, 2225 Tyvola Rd)

DATE OF EVENT: April 26 – **HOLLYWOOD PREMIER**

May 17 – **UNDER THE SEA**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 5:30PM TO 9:30PM

The TR Dance is the place to be on the 3rd Friday of each month! Teens to adults with disabilities dance the night away at these FUN themed events. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up/tear down, serving food and drinks, and helping with crafts, games or other activities. ***Volunteers must be at least 18 years old.**

Contact: VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to sign up!



MYSTERY DINNER

LOCATION: TYVOLA SENIOR CENTER

2225 Tyvola Road, Charlotte, 28210

DATE OF EVENT: **Saturday, April 13**

Saturday, May 11

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 5:00PM TO 8:00PM

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: **Up to 10**

The Mystery Dinner is a great opportunity for a fun-loving group! Mystery Dinners are now *INCLUSIVE!* Diners aged 15 and up will work together to figure out who is the "criminal" in the crowd! Volunteers are needed to help with set-up/tear down, games or other activities, serving food and drinks – and may even take part in the drama! ***Volunteers must be at least 18 years old.**

Contact: VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov or Mistie.Williams@MeckNC.gov

AGOC STUDY TIME – Tutors Needed!



LOCATION: ARBOR GLEN OUTREACH CENTER

- 1520 Clanton Road, Charlotte, 28208

DAYS/TIMES OF PROGRAM: Every Tuesday and Thursday – 5:30PM-6:30PM

"AGOC STUDY TIME" is an after-school enrichment program for students in 1st grade through 6th grade. Volunteers will assist with one-on-one tutoring in Math and Reading skills, in a classroom setting. Materials and program orientation will be provided.

The Arbor Glen staff also lead an after-school program at:

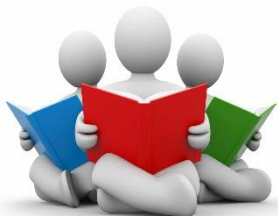
Nations Ford Elementary School, 8300 Nations Ford Road, 28217 - Monday through Friday, 4:15-6:00pm

We always have a need for bilingual tutors (Spanish), to provide the most effective assistance to the diverse students in this program!

- Volunteers must be at least 18 years old - age 21 and up is preferred.
- Volunteers must complete an online application and background check.

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to sign up!

Tutoring at Revolution!



LOCATION: REVOLUTION PARK SPORTS ACADEMY

- 1125 Remount Road, Charlotte, 28208

DAYS/TIMES: Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00PM

Saturdays, 9:00-11:00AM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 1-2 hours each date, set schedule with staff

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 2-3 per day



Students in grades K-12 receive weekly tutoring in reading and math, primarily facilitated by NC Educator licensed teachers. Volunteers provide valuable 1-on-1 assistance to students in studying reading and math. A great opportunity to provide a positive example to youth and teens! **Volunteers must be at least 18 years old for this ongoing opportunity and must join the Volunteer Program.**

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to register as a volunteer!



Natural Resources Volunteer Information Sessions!



Are you interested in helping out at one of Park & Recreation's Nature Centers or Nature Preserves? Attend one of our upcoming MONTHLY Information Sessions to find out what it takes to Volunteer:

Tour the facility, review available Volunteer roles (such as special events, programming, stewardship, etc.) and expected commitments, and more!

Saturday, May 25 – 2:00-3:00pm at McDowell Nature Center, 15222 South York Road, Charlotte, 28278
CONTACT: Melissa.OLenick@MeckNC.gov

*The Volunteer Information Sessions will take a break over the summer...
watch for NEW sessions in September!*

We still need a few Coaches for Spring Sports!

Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov for more information about registering to Coach!



WE STILL HAVE THESE URGENT NEEDS:

Li'l Ray Indoor Soccer – Southview Recreation Center
Indoor Soccer – West Charlotte Recreation Center

To volunteer as a coach, you must enroll in our Volunteer Program - if you would like to enroll please contact Volunteer Services at VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to receive a link to the Volunteer Enrollment site, with additional instructions.

As a Coach, you will need to be available for both Practices and Games/Meets. Most of the practices are during the week and the games/meets are usually on Saturday. To check out where our centers are located, and to find phone numbers for the Centers, go to www.parkandrec.com > **Recreation Centers**.

*If you have already been Coaching with us, remember that your application/approval remains active for ONE YEAR, and must be updated annually! **Please contact Volunteer Services if you need to check on your renewal date or status!**



MECKLENBURG COUNTY YOUTH TRACK & FIELD MEETS

LOCATION: JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY – IRWIN BELK COMPLEX

500 Summit Avenue, Charlotte, 28216

DATES OF EVENTS:

- Sunday, April 14
- Saturday, April 27
- Sunday, May 5
- Saturday, May 11
- Saturday, May 19



TIME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Saturdays 8:00am-3:00pm, Sundays 12:00-7:00pm

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 25-30 each date

The Youth Track & Field program is an annual youth sports offering from Mecklenburg County, serving over 500 participants ages 4 to 18 years old in 2018. Athletes compete in developmentally appropriate disciplines in a recreational setting, to promote a love of athletics!

Volunteers are needed to assist with a **wide variety of tasks** during each meet, including: event set-up and tear-down; clerking tent (athlete check-in); hiping tent (distributing numbers to athletes, etc.); warm-up areas; starting line; finish line volunteers and timing/finish line runner; and helping with various events that need additional preparation including long-jump and softball throw. We will also need volunteers to: assist the announcer, act as ushers for the athletes and runners for additional support; and to be Hospitality Assistants, keeping hospitality stations stocked with water and refreshments for athletes, officials and volunteers (ability to lift 30+ pounds on and off trailers is required for Hospitality Assistants).

***Volunteers must be at least 12 years old for these events – ANY volunteer under the age of 16 MUST be accompanied by a parent/adult at all times. Please wear comfortable clothing/shoes, and bring a lunch, sunscreen, hat and water bottle – snacks/refreshments will be provided.**

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov to register as a volunteer!

GET READY FOR...



Beginning in April and continuing through the second week of June, hundreds of active seniors will be taking part in the annual Mecklenburg Senior Games and Silver Arts competitions!

Sports will include: Cycling, Golf, Track & Field, Badminton, Softball, Archery, Swimming, Bowling, Table Tennis, Basketball, Tennis, Pickleball and more! A Performing Arts Showcase will be held on April 6. *Please refer to the chart on the next page for events, locations, dates and times!*

We are seeking friendly, upbeat volunteers to assist local older active adults that are participating in the 2019 Mecklenburg Senior Games! Under the guidance of Event Managers, volunteers will be responsible for the following tasks for each event: Set up, welcoming participants, registration, monitoring events, rules enforcement, awards presentations, breakdown and basic clean up.

Volunteers must be at least age 12 – anyone under the age of 16 MUST be accompanied by a parent/adult. Please dress in appropriate athletic attire with comfortable, closed-toe shoes. All volunteers will receive a T-shirt.

Contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov for more information and to sign up to Volunteer!

MECKLENBURG SENIOR GAMES & SILVER ARTS SCHEDULE

Event / Location	Date	Start Time	End Time	# Vols
Performing Arts showcase – Levine Senior Center	Sat, 4/6/19	11:00am	5:00pm	FULL
Table tennis - Hawthorne Rec. Center	Tues, 4/9/19	4:30pm	8:30pm	FULL
Billiards - Rack 'em Billiards	Thur, 4/11/19	12:00pm	4:00pm	FULL
Cycling - Charlotte Motor Speedway <i>*Ideal for a GROUP!</i>	Mon, 4/22/19 <u>Raindate: 4/23</u>	9:00am	3:00pm	8
Golf Tournament – The Tradition Golf Club	Thur, 4/25/19 <u>Raindate: 5/7</u>	8:30am	2:30pm	2
Track & Field Events - AG Middle School <i>*Ideal for a GROUP!</i>	Sat, 4/27/19	9:00am	3:00pm	12
Swim Meet – Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center	Wed, 5/1/19	9:00am	3:00pm	4
Big Sat. - various field events – Marion Diehl Park <i>*Ideal for a GROUP!</i>	Sat, 5/4/19	8:30am	4:30pm	14
Archery - Mecklenburg Wildlife Club	Wed, 5/8/19 <u>Raindate: 5/15</u>	11:30am	5:30pm	4
Tennis, Racquetball & Basketball shooting - Jewish Community Center	Friday; 5/10/19	9:30am	3:30pm	4
Bowling (doubles) - Park 10 Lanes	Mon, 5/13/19	9:30am	1:30pm	2
Bowling (mixed doubles) - Park 10 Lanes	Thur, 5/16/19	9:30am	1:30pm	2
Pickle Ball singles, doubles & mixed doubles - Crews Road Rec. Center (Matthews)	Sat, 5/18/19 <u>Overflow date:</u> 5/19/19	9:00am	5:00pm	4
Bowling (singles) - Park 10 Lanes	Tues, 5/21/19	9:30am	1:30pm	2
3 on 3 Basketball (Women) – Crews Road Rec. Center (Matthews)	Wed, 5/22/19	5:30pm	8:30pm	2
Horseshoes & Shuffleboard – Nevin Park	Fri, 5/24/19	9:00am	3:00pm	6
3 on 3 Basketball (Men) - Tom Sykes Rec. Center	Wed, 5/29/19	5:00pm	9:00pm	4
Badminton (singles) - 2 nd Ward Gym	Tues, 6/4/19	4:30pm	8:30pm	4
Badminton (doubles & mixed doubles) - 2 nd Ward Gym	Thur, 6/6/19	4:30pm	8:30pm	4
Softball Tournament (Women) - Park Road Park	Sat, 6/8/19	9:00am	5:00pm	4





Opportunities for Groups

Bring YOUR group out to help keep our Parks looking their best! We welcome any group, from businesses, churches, neighborhoods, fraternities/sororities, Scouts, students, civic groups, colleges/universities, etc.

For more information on volunteering for any of our projects, please contact:

- Karen Howard at 980-314-1046 Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov
- Pamela Thomas at 980-314-1059 Pamela.Thomas@MeckNC.gov

WEEKDAY PROJECTS

- *Projects can be arranged for groups of 10 to 100+ Volunteers, from March through November, on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday – 9:00am – 12:00.*

SATURDAY PROJECTS

- Hours are 9:00am – 12:00 Noon
- Volunteers 12 years old and up are welcome!
- **All Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 21.**
- **You must RSVP to VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov.** We need to know how many Volunteers to plan for, and we need to be able to contact you in case of changes or cancellations!
- All projects are park maintenance and beautification projects, which may include mulching, weeding, pruning and clean-ups. **Be aware that all of these projects involve manual labor!**
- All you need to bring are a pair of gloves, a water bottle and LOTS OF ENERGY!!
- Please go to www.parkandrec.com to see where Parks, Nature Preserves and Greenways are located. From the home page click on either the Parks, Nature Preserves or Greenways tab.

SATURDAY PROJECT DATES: *All Saturday projects are 9:00am – 12:00 noon*
Project dates and/or locations are subject to change!

- Saturday, April 6 at Firestone Park – *brush clearing*
- Saturday, April 13 at Freedom Park – *annual planting*
- Saturday, April 20 at Harrisburg Road Park – *mulching*
- Saturday, April 27 at Blythe Landing Park – *mulching*
- Saturday, May 4 at Allen Hills Park – *playground surfacing*
- Saturday, May 11 at Alexander Street Park – *mulching*



****WATCH FOR MORE SATURDAY PROJECTS COMING FOR MAY, JUNE AND JULY!****



VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT TIPS

We LOVE our Volunteers, and we want to make it EASY for you to come and help your community! Here are a few tips for you...THANK YOU for taking the time to support YOUR Park & Recreation Department!

YOU DO **NOT** NEED TO REGISTER/JOIN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

- For one-day events or projects
- For helping with a program ONE time (Example: chaperoning ONE field trip for an after-school program)

YOU **MUST** REGISTER/JOIN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

- To be a Coach for any sport
- To assist with an ongoing program on a regular basis (Example: tutoring once a week; teaching ESL)

Please contact VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov if you are not sure whether or not you need to enroll for a volunteer project, event or program. We are happy to assist you!

Volunteer Services Program Mission Statement

1. To assist Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department staff in providing services needed to offer quality recreation and leisure services to the community by:

- Supporting direct services provided by salaried department staff.
- Supplementing administrative, clerical, maintenance and other internal support service functions.

2. To provide the Citizens of Mecklenburg County opportunities for Citizen Involvement and to increase their awareness of the Department's Responsibilities, Services and Results.

CONTACT US!

For more information on volunteering for any of our programs or projects, please contact:

Karen Howard at 980-314-1046

Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov

Pamela Thomas at 980-314-1059

Pamela.Thomas@MeckNC.gov



PLEASE NOTE: Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/adult, who is at least 21 years old.

*Volunteers working with Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation Services (TIRS) must be at least 18 years old.

LIKE and SHARE us on Facebook - We are <https://www.facebook.com/MeckParkRec/>